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Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-163 (canceled)

Claim 164 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;

an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;

a cooling means associated with the lid and adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and

a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 165 (new): The appliance of claim 164, wherein said movement includes a major generally horizontal component of movement provided by means running along at least one generally horizontal track.

Claim 166 (new): The appliance of Claim 165, wherein the track includes at least one rail.

Claim 167 (new): The appliance of Claim 166, wherein the or each rail is telescopic.

Claim 168 (new): The appliance of Claim 165, wherein the track is exposed to ambient air.

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Claim 169 (new): The appliance of Claim 164 wherein said container is supported by wheels or rollers running along a generally horizontal support surface and said movement includes a major generally horizontal component.

Claim 170 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, wherein the cooling means is substantially flush with the underside of the lid.

Claim 171 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, wherein the structure is a frame which is adapted to be built-in between cupboards or other structures.

Claim 172 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, wherein the structure defines at least one ambient air circulation channel around the external surface of the closed container.

Claim 173 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, further including a means for drawing in ambient air from the front of the appliance and wherein said structure defines a front panel including at least one opening for admission of ambient air.

Claim 174 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, further including a means for dividing the interior of the container.

Claim 175 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, wherein the cooling means includes an evaporator exposed to the interior of the container when the container is closed.

Claim 176 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, the cooling means includes cold air ducts to feed cold air into the container when the container is closed.

Claim 177 (new): The appliance of Claim 176, wherein the cold air is supplied by a fan coil circuit.

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Claim 178 (new): The appliance of Claim 169, wherein the support surface is exposed to ambient air.

Claim 179 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, wherein the cooling means is integral with the lid.

Claim 180 (new): The appliance of Claim 173, wherein the front panel further comprises control and/or display means.

Claim 181 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;

and

- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, said movement including a minor generally vertical component, said mounting permitting said generally vertical movement, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 182 (new): The appliance of Claim 181, wherein the container lifts against the lid upon closing and drops away from the lid upon opening.

Claim 183 (new): The appliance of Claim 181, wherein the track or support surface includes a ramp effecting said vertical component of movement.

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Claim 184 (new): The appliance of Claim 181, and including crank means responsive to closing movement of the container to lift the container toward the lid.

Claim 185 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid, and wherein closing movement of the container with respect to the structure and the lid wedges together the container and the lid, said wedging being effected by a track or support surface supporting the container that converges with the lid in the closing direction of the container.

Claim 186 (new): The appliance of Claim 185, wherein the lid is received and embraced by a rim portion of the container that squeezes the lid laterally when the container and the lid wedge together.

Claim 187 (new): The appliance of Claim 185, wherein the lid and the rim portion are complementarily tapered.

Claim 188 (new): The appliance of Claim 185, comprising holding means for holding the container wedged against the lid.

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Claim 189 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a magnetic, hydraulic, or pneumatic seal that seals the container to the lid when the container is closed;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 190 (new): The appliance of Claim 189, wherein the seal is compressible.

Claim 191 (new): The appliance of Claim 189, wherein the seal is electro-magnetic.

Claim 192 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, said opening movement being against the force of gravity, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

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Claim 193 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;

an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;

a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and

a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein substantially all of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid and the appliance is in use.

Claim 194 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;

an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;

a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;

a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means; and

a scraper or wiper means associated with the container to remove ice or water from the cooling means upon relative movement between the container and the lid;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for said movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 195 (new): The appliance of Claim 194 and including first and second scraper or wiper blades arranged respectively to remove ice or water from the cooling means during opening and closing of the container.

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Claim 196 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid, and further including a flexible membrane associated with the cooling means and means for locally deforming the membrane to remove ice or water from the membrane upon relative movement between the container and the lid.

Claim 197 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means; and
- a shut-down means for shutting down the cooling means when the container is not closed;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 198 (new): The appliance of Claim 197, wherein the shut-down means includes a switch closed by presence of the container.

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Claim 199 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means; and
- a retractable screen which is extensible to screen the cooling means when the container is open;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 200 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the screen is attached at one end to the structure and at an opposed end to the container or to means associated with the container.

Claim 201 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the screen is removably attached to the means associated with the container.

Claim 202 (new): The appliance of Claim 201, further including retaining means for retaining the screen in a wholly or partially extended configuration when the screen is detached from the container.

Claim 203 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the screen is exposed to ambient air when retracted.

Claim 204 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the screen is furled on a roller when retracted.

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Claim 205 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the screen is heat-reflective.

Claim 206 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein a wiper or scraper is operable during retraction of the screen to remove water or ice from the screen.

Claim 207 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the screen is biased into a retracted configuration.

Claim 208 (new): The appliance of Claim 164, further including a means for exhausting to the front of the appliance air that has been heated by a heat exchanger.

Claim 209 (new): The appliance of Claim 199, wherein the container is removable from the structure and an auxiliary lid is attachable to the container when so removed, wherein the retractable screen is attached at one end to the structure and at an opposed end to the container or to a movable cradle adapted to receive the container.

Claim 210 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;

- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;

- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;

- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means; and

- an impeller for promoting admission and exhaustion of ambient air;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

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Claim 211 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid, wherein said container is removable from the structure and an auxiliary lid is attachable to the container when so removed.

Claim 212 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means; and
- a means for exhausting ambient air to the front of the appliance;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 213 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

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wherein the container is mounted to the structure such that it can be moved with respect to the structure and the lid in a plurality of different directions to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 214 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- a plurality of open-topped insulating containers defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid associated with each container and adapted to close the open top of said each container;

- a cooling means associated with each container and adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of said each container; and

- a structure supporting the containers, the lids and the cooling means;

wherein each container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and its respective lid to open said each container and afford access to its interior or to close said each container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of said each container is exposed to ambient air when it is closed by its respective lid.

Claim 215 (new): The appliance of Claim 214, wherein the respective cooling means are independently controllable.

Claim 216 (new): The appliance of Claim 214, wherein the cooling means are connected to a common refrigerator engine.

Claim 217 (new): The appliance of Claim 214, wherein the containers are stacked one above another.

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Claim 218 (new): The appliance of Claim 214, further including means for preventing opening of a container when another container of the plurality is open.

Claim 219 (new): The appliance of Claim 214, wherein the containers are of different interior sizes, shapes or volumes.

Claim 220 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;

- an Insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;

- a viewing means to assist a user in viewing the contents of a container;

- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and

- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 221 (new): The appliance of Claim 220, wherein a viewing window is provided in the front and/or bottom of a container.

Claim 222 (new): The appliance of Claim 220, and including a viewing mirror positioned above the container to afford a reflected view from above the container into its open top.

Claim 223 (new): The appliance of Claim 222, wherein the mirror is retractable when not in use.

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Claim 224 (new): The appliance of Claim 223, wherein the mirror is attached to the container.

Claim 225 (new): The appliance of Claim 223 and having a plurality of containers, wherein the mirror is positioned above the containers to view the contents of any of the containers.

Claim 226 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;
- a defrost tray positionable in the container below the cooling means; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 227 (new): The appliance of Claim 226, wherein the defrost tray includes a scraper or wiper means to remove ice or water from the cooling means upon relative movement between the container and the lid.

Claim 228 (new): The appliance of Claim 226, wherein the defrost tray includes an absorbent insert.

Claim 229 (new): The appliance of Claim 228, wherein the insert is heatable.

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Claim 230 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container,

said cooling means being generally inclined or having locally inclined portions to promote drainage of moisture condensed thereon away from the interior of the container; and

- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 231 (new): The appliance of Claim 230, wherein the cooling means communicates with ducts in the lid or the container for drainage of moisture away from the cooling means.

Claim 232 (new): A cold-storage appliance embodied in a refrigerated vehicle application, said appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

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Claim 233 (new): The appliance of Claim 232, and wherein the application is a vehicle-mountable container.

Claim 234 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;

an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;

a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and

a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure, the cooling means and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 235 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, wherein said movement of the container includes a major generally horizontal component of movement provided by means running along at least one generally horizontal track.

Claim 236 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, wherein the container is supported by wheels or rollers running along a generally horizontal support surface.

Claim 237 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, wherein substantially all of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 238 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, wherein the structure is a frame which is adapted to be built-in between cupboards or other structures.

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Claim 239 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, further including a means for drawing in ambient air from the front of the appliance and wherein said structure defines a front panel including at least one opening for admission of ambient air.

Claim 240 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, further including a means for dividing the interior of the container.

Claim 241 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, wherein the structure defines at least one ambient air circulation channel around the external surface of the closed container.

Claim 242 (new): The appliance of Claim 234, and including a means for exhausting to the front of the appliance air that has been heated by a heat exchanger.

Claim 243 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container; and
- a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means;

wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, said movement including a major generally horizontal component which is effected by opening a door of the appliance, and wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.

Claim 244 (new): A cold-storage appliance including:

- an open-topped insulating container defining an external surface;
- an insulating lid adapted to close the open top of the container;
- a cooling means adapted to cool the interior but not the exterior of the container;

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a means for drawing in ambient air from the front of the appliance;
a means for exhausting ambient air to the front of the appliance; and
a structure supporting the container, the lid and the cooling means, said structure defining a front panel including at least one opening for admission of ambient air;
wherein the container is mounted to the structure for movement relative to the structure and the lid to open the container and afford access to its interior or to close the container, and
wherein at least a majority of the external surface of the container is exposed to ambient air when the container is closed by the lid.